

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) A method for ejecting liquid droplets ~~by use of~~ from a liquid droplet ejection apparatus comprising a pressurizing chamber communicating with a liquid supply path via a liquid introduction bore having a hollow, substantially cylindrical form, an ejection nozzle connected to said pressurizing chamber, an end portion of said ejection nozzle, located on an ejection side opposite said pressurizing chamber, having a substantially hollow, cylindrical form, a bottom face of said hollow cylinder forming a circular ejection opening, and a piezoelectric/electrostrictive element for changing a volume of said pressurizing chamber, said liquid droplet ejection apparatus being configured such that a ratio of a diameter of said liquid introduction bore to a diameter of said ejection opening is 0.6 to 1.6 and such that a ratio of the diameter of said ejection opening to a height of said hollow cylinder of said end portion located on the ejection side is 0.2 to 4, said method being adapted to eject liquid from said ejection opening and comprising ~~the steps~~ of:

- (a) providing a liquid droplet ejection apparatus comprising
a pressurizing chamber communicating with a liquid supply path via a
liquid introduction bore having a hollow, substantially cylindrical shape,
an ejection nozzle having one end connected to said pressurizing
chamber and having an ejection side end portion opposing said pressurizing
chamber, said ejection side and portion having a substantially hollow,
cylindrical shape defining a hollow cylinder, wherein a bottom face of said
hollow cylinder of said end portion of said ejection nozzle defines a circular
ejection opening, and

a piezoelectric/electrostrictive element for changing a volume of said pressurizing chamber.

wherein said liquid droplet ejection apparatus is configured such that a ratio of a diameter of said liquid introduction bore to a diameter of said ejection opening is in a range of 0.6 to 1.6 and such that a ratio of the diameter of said ejection opening to a height of said hollow cylinder of said ejection side end portion is in a range of 0.4 to 4; and

(b) pressurizing liquid introduced into said pressurizing chamber from said liquid supply path via said liquid introduction bore and simultaneously ejecting a plurality of droplets of said liquid through said ejection opening of said ejection nozzle by actuating said piezoelectric/electrostrictive element such that as to attain a rate of change per unit time expressed as a ratio of an amount of change in a volume of said pressurizing chamber to a sum of a volume of said ejection nozzle and the said volume of said pressurizing chamber is in a range of 6 ppm/ μ s to 40 ppm/ μ s, to thereby pressurize said liquid introduced into said pressurizing chamber from said liquid supply path via said liquid introduction bore and simultaneously eject a plurality of droplets of said liquid through said ejection opening of said ejection nozzle.

15-24. (Cancelled).